

DELAWARE DIVISION OF LIBRARIES

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The Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL)/State Library of Delaware provides general direction over the extension and improvement of library services statewide. The DDL assists

Delaware libraries in meeting the diverse informational and educational needs of residents in their individual communities through the following programs and services:



***Del*AWARE: The Digital Library of the First State (www.lib.de.us)**

*Del*AWARE is a joint project of the Delaware Division of Libraries, Delaware Technical & Community College, and Delaware's public libraries. This web-based service provides access to the Internet and offers a powerful search engine and an on-line subject guide to quality web sites reviewed by librarians and subject specialists. *Del*AWARE also makes access available, using a public library barcode and PIN, to magazines, newspapers, and the World Book Encyclopedia. Government information and library catalogs and information can also be accessed through *Del*AWARE at www.lib.de.us.

Delaware Library Conference and Technology Education Center

The Delaware Library Conference and Technology Education Center is a state-of-the-art training facility for the Delaware library community and for other organizations who are interested in learning about information technologies. The Delaware Library Conference and Technology Education Center provides opportunities for Delaware public librarians to develop their knowledge of the latest information technology and electronic information resources.

The Delaware Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH)

Prior to 1971, library service to the blind and visually impaired of Delaware was provided from out-of-state. There was, however, an ever-growing interest in creating Delaware's own library.

The Delaware Division of Libraries began working toward a regional library for Delaware, and patrons and guests were invited to the dedication of the newly established regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Dover, on Friday December 10, 1971.

The Delaware regional library was established with its own building, a staff of five and a full range of National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped produced titles for its collection. Since its dedication, the Delaware regional library has had seven librarians: Billie Jean Ouellett, 1971; Marietta Kertiles, 1979; Darcel A. Bryant, 1984; Lee Steele, 1985; Rosemary Russo, 1989; Anne E. C. Norman, 1990; and Beth Landon, 1999.

By 1975, the Delaware regional library served 600 individual readers and institutions. The library's collections originally consisted of talking books, recorded disks, recorded cassettes, and braille. However, by 1975, the low braille readership and limited collection growth space forced the library to discontinue receiving new braille titles from NLS. Thus an arrangement was made with the regional library in Philadelphia for braille service. This agreement, with modifications, continues today.

The regional library was moved from its original location to a building also housing the State Library in the early 1980's. The regional library also established a consumer advisory committee and, in 1987, the regional library automated its circulation system with READS (Reader Enrollment and Delivery System). In the early 1990's, the regional library added compact shelving to increase the amount of shelf space for its collections and moved from READS to KLAS, a turnkey, automated, circulation system. Most significantly, the LBPH was codified in [The Delaware Code](#).

DDL provides a host of other services including:

- Coordination with Delaware public libraries of the Delaware Summer Library Reading Program for children;
- Delaware Union List of Serials which identifies more than 4,700 magazines and journals owned by Delaware libraries;
- Daily statewide interlibrary delivery of library materials between public, academic, special, and school libraries;
- State Library Standards program called BASE which provides grants to public libraries for planning, implementing and evaluating library services;
- State Public Library Construction Assistance Act program which provides grants to public libraries for library construction projects which build, expand, or renovate facilities;
- Library Services and Technology Act program which provides grants to Delaware libraries serving the needs of the public; and
- Federal depository library collection of publications from the U.S. government.